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Message Text

SECRET

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21
ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 SAM-01 SAB-01

NIC-01 SCCT-01 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 FEA-01 INT-05

OES-03 /104 W
---------- 095416
P R 241112Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9030
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 2628

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EX LY SU EG
SUBJ: NIMEIRI ASSESSES HIS LIBYAN INITIATIVE

REF: KHARTOUM 2605

1. DURING MY MEETING WITH NIMEIRI THIS MORNING, I SAID I UNDERSTOOD EGYPTIANS HAD ISSUED STATEMENT TO EFFECT LIBYA HAD SUPPORTED TUNIS HIJACKERS. I WONDERED WHETHER HIS EFFORTS AT EGYPT-LIBYA-SUDAN RAPPROCHEMENT LIKELY SUFFER. NIMEIRI REPLIED HE THOUGHT PLO WAS CLAIMING HIJACKERS SUPPORTED BY IRAQ BUT IN ANY CASE PROGRESS IN IMPROVING TIES WITH LIBYA WOULD BE SLOW.
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2. DISCUSSING BACKGROUND HIS INITIATIVE, NIMEIRI THEN SAID
THAT, WHILE GOL HAD NOT ATTENDED ALGIERS SUMMIT, LIBYA HAD
BEEN REPRESENTED AT LOW LEVEL IN RABAT. HE TOOK THIS MEAN
GOL ITSELF WORRIED AT ITS ISOLATION AND THAT TIME MIGHT THUS BE
RIPE FOR HIM STEP IN AND SEEK BRING QADHAFI AND SADAT TOGETHER.
HE HAD FOUND PRIMIN JALUD AND TWO OTHER MINISTERS (HE
MENTIONED MINHOUSING MANQUSH) FAVORABLE BUT REACTION
QADHAFI AND OTHERS HAD BEEN RESERVED. MOREOVER,
AFTER SEEING SADAT, NIMEIRI FELT THERE REMAINED IN EFFECT A
PERSONALITY CLASH BETWEEN THE TWO WHICH WOULD SLOW ANY
PROGRESS TOWARD NORMALIZATION GOL/ARE TIES. BUT NIMEIRI
FELT LIBYANS NOW RECOGNIZED THEY "NEEDED" EGYPT. TRIPOLI'S
PORT WAS SHAMBLES WITH "HUNDREDS" VESSELS WAITING AND
SHORE LITTERED WITH UNABSORBED IMPORTS COSTING 800 MILLION
DINARS. LIBYA DID NOT NEED ALL THIS BUT OTHER AFRICANS COULD
USE ADDI-
TIONAL HELP WHICH GOL COULD PROVIDE FROM ITS VAST OIL INCOME.
HE THEREFORE HOPED RELATIONS COULD BE IMPROVED BUT MADE NO
STATEMENT SUPPORTING RECENT KHARTOUM PRESS CLAIMS OF DRAMATIC
DEVELOPMENT WITHIN FEW DAYS.

3. COMMENT. NIMEIRI'S REMARKS UNDERSCORE
EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT PARA 4 REFTEL THAT KEY REASON HE SEEKING
FOSTER IMPROVED GOS TIES WITH ARAB MODERATES IS TO START
FLOW LIBYAN OIL FUNDS TO NEEDY AFRICANS, INCLUDING SUDAN.
HE EVIDENTLY DOES NOT EXPECT MUCH PROGRESS SOON, HOWEVER,
AND INDICATED THAT CURRENT TUNIS HIJACKING MIGHT WELL REPRE-
SENT NEW OBSTACLE.
BREWER

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